MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Held in Washington, D.C., October 4, 1946.

The second meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1947 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Friday, October 4, 1946. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Finley, Vice Chairman,
Mr. Aldrich,
Mr. Reinhard,
Mr. Murphy,
Mr. Lawrie,
also H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Administrative Officer. Also, by invitation, Mr. Henry R. Shepley.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held August 13, 1946, were approved.

2. REPORT ON WAR MEMORIAL BOOKLET: The Secretary presented a page proof of the proposed booklet on War Memorials (Senate Doc.234) which is being printed by the Government Printing Office for the Commission. The Commission made a number of suggestions as to the format of the booklet and pictures to be used, which will be embodied in the printed document. Indications are that the booklet will be very interesting and useful.

The Secretary reported that he received a check for $100 from the National Sculpture Society for copies of the booklet, to be distributed.

3. PEDESTAL FOR THE STATUE OF NATHAN HALE: The Secretary presented a set of prints received from Mr. Douglas Orr, FAIA, of 95 Grove Street, New Haven, Connecticut, for the pedestal of the Nathan Hale Statue, with statement describing them (Exhibit A). Copies of the prints were sent to the architect members of the Commission and also to Mr. Lawrie, and they made quite a number of criticisms. In short, the design was disapproved.

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The Commission made the following specific criticisms and recommendations:

1. Retain the bronze plinth of the statue;

2. Have the pedestal square and raise it somewhat;

3. Reduce the platform to six inches from the ground up;

4. Pedestal to be hone finish granite;

5. Appropriate inscription---panel with famous quotation by Nathan Hale suggested, -"I only regret that I have but one life to lost for my country." (cf. Documentary Life of Nathan Hale, by George Dudley Seymour, p.xxxii)

A report was sent to Mr. Orr accordingly (Exhibit B)

4. HEADQUARTERS BUILDING FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS: Mr. Harvey Miller, Architect, of Washington, submitted a design for the proposed Headquarters Building of the National Association of Letter Carriers, to be built at the corner of Indiana Avenue and First Street, N.W., facing the Capital Plaza. The building is to be eight stories high (90 feet) and faced with Georgia Marble.

The Commission inspected the design and felt improvements could be made in the appearance of it. Mr. Reinhard was designated to confer with the architect, and after discussion with him, he suggested the following changes:

1. Lower horizontal band course to the level of the second floor window sill; instead of flat band, it is to be moulded.

2. Band course at top of building to be a moulded form.

3. Omit statue of letter carrier on corner; question of placing him inside the building left for later consideration.

4. Study lettering under lower band course so as to be in one line.

5. Submit final drawings.

The Commission concurred in these suggestions, and it is understood they will be embodied in the final drawings, to be submitted in due time.

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1. Retain the bronze plinth of the statue;

2. Have the pedestal square and raise it somewhat;

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The Commission concurred in these suggestions, and it is understood they will be embodied in the final drawings, to be submitted in due time.

5. MODELS FOR IOWA CENTENNIAL COIN: Under date of October 1, 1946, the following letter was received:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

In reference to your letter of September 17, 1946, I am forwarding herewith the models for the Iowa Centennial half dollar, the sculptor of which is Mr. Adam Pietz, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Also enclosed is a set of photographs.

Prompt return of the models is requested.

Very truly yours,
Leland Howard,
Acting Director of the Mint.

The Commission inspected the models and noted that Mr. Pietz had embodied a suggestion made by Mr. Lawrie a few weeks ago, during an inspection of the design, that the eagle should have legs.

In view of the fact that the models were submitted at such a late date, it being understood that the half dollar has to be minted during the year 1946, the Commission imposed no objection to the minting of this coin. The Acting Director of the Mint was informed accordingly (Exhibit C).

6. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON MEMORIAL COIN: Under date of October 1, 1946, Mr. Howard submitted models for this coin, with letter as follows:

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Forwarded herewith are the models for the Booker T. Washington half dollar which were prepared by Mr. Charles Keck of New York City.

It is the opinion of this Bureau that the background on the obverse will have to be raised in order to meet the requirements of our coinage presses.

Very truly yours,
Leland Howard,
Acting Director of the Mint.

Also, on October 4th, Mr. Howard sent another set of models for this coin, with letter as follows:

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

Mr. Phillips of the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial Association, called me on the phone yesterday and said that he was flying to Washington with new models of the Booker T. Washington commemorative coin. Mr. Phillips delivered the models to this office in a damaged condition and without review I am sending them to you so that your Commission can consider them at its meeting today.

I think I should explain to you the Mint's position on

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commemorative coins. We oppose the issuance of commemorative coins but after a bill is enacted authorizing the minting of a coin we do not attempt to take the responsibility for the design and other details except that we insist that the relief be of such nature that we can manufacture a coin that will stack properly. Therefore, when we submit models to you for your comments upon the artistic merits of the design, we do not want you to think that we are in any way responsible for the design. We assume that the act authorizing the coins rests that responsibility with the committee appointed by the officials handling the event that is being commemorated.

I understand that Mr. Phillips has talked to you relative to these models.

Very truly yours,
Leland Howard,
Acting Director of the Mint.

The Commission inspected the models. They felt that the head of Booker T. Washington on the obverse of the set submitted by Mr. Phillips was better than that on Mr. Keck's model, at least so far as likeness is concerned. The models submitted by Mr. Phillips were quite flat. It was understood they were made by an instructor of sculpture at Tuskegee Institute.

The reverse of the two sets of models was quite similar as to design, portraying some lettering, the cabin in which Booker T. Washington was born as a slave and the Hall of Fame, New York City, where he is commemorated. The Commission felt it would make a better coin to omit the two buildings as portrayed, since the model reduced to half-dollar size would practically wipe out the design of the building. However, Mr. Phillips said his Association is most anxious to show the buildings, since it illustrates the great opportunities there are in the United States for poor people to reach distinction. It was thereupon suggested that the two buildings in stylized form might appear satisfactory, and a sketch to illustrate this was given to Mr. Phillips. A new model for the reverse is to be made accordingly. A report was sent to the Acting Director of the Mint (Exhibit D).

7. THEATER OF OPERATIONS MEDALS: Under date of September 17, 1946, the following letter was received from the Office of the Quartermaster General:

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A report was sent to the Acting Director of the Mint (Exhibit D).

7. HEARING OF DESIGNATIONS MODELS: Under date of September 17, 1946, the following letter was received from the Office of the Quartermaster General:

17 September, 1946.

Fine Arts Commission,
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

By informal directive from the General Staff Corps, War Department, the designs for the obverse of the European-African-Middle Eastern and Asiatic Pacific Campaign medals have been modeled by Mr. Thomas Hudson Jones and these models have incorporated elements which are designed in these designs. The compositions have been simplified from those previously submitted and are now transmitted to you for an expression as to the merits of the designs in accordance with the provisions of the executive order requiring such designs to be submitted.

There is also transmitted the plaster model of the reverse for all three campaign medals as prepared by Mr. Weinman. Again considering this design it is proposed that the lettering appear with broader elements so that when it is reduced from this large size down to medal size and miniatures, which are 1 1/4 inches and 5/8 inch respectively, the lettering will still be readable. It is also proposed that a little wider rim be placed around the outside periphery of the reverse so that when trimming the medal it will not have a sharp edge.

There is also transmitted pencil sketches of the obverse of the American Campaign medal as prepared and submitted by Mr. Cecere in accordance with instructions submitted to him by this office as directed by the General Staff Corps. It is requested that an indication be made as to the suitability of one of the compositions submitted by this sculptor. It is believed that the base on which the figure stands could be made of a more interesting composition. It is therefore requested that an indication be made as to how this design may be improved.

The designs submitted by Mr. Amateis showing the figures descending from both sides of a vessel were not concurred in by the General Staff Corps, nor was this type of vessel used in that campaign. In view of these circumstances, the designs submitted by Mr. Amateis are not suitable for military use.

For the Quartermaster General:

W. H. Middleswart,
Brigadier General, QMC,
Assistant

Enclosure

The designs and models were given particular attention by Mr. Lawrie, After discussion the following action was taken:

1. Model for Eagle: Suggestions contained in paragraph 2 of above letter endorsed.

2. Model for Obverse of the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal: Lettering for obverse and reverse should be identical in style.

3. Model for Obverse of Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal: The Commission regretted that the design by Mr. Amateis was eliminated, and suggested that he be given another opportunity to revise his design, unless the issue is closed.

17 September, 1946.

Fine Arts Commission,
Washington, D.C.

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For the Quartermaster General:

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4. The American Campaign Medal: The Commission were not enthusiastic over any of the sketches by Mr. Cecere, portraying a soldier. The Commission advised that a map of North America and South America as indicated would be objectionable, insofar as South America is concerned, more particularly since the soldier's heel is on Argentine. The Commission saw no way of arranging this in a satisfactory manner and therefore suggested omitting it.

The Commission recommended that the soldier stand on a globe, which might have an indication of North America and South America on it. A model by Mr. Cecere to illustrate this was deemed desirable.

A detailed report embodying these criticisms and suggestions, with the return of the models and sketches, was sent to General Middleswart (Exhibit E).

8. CENTRAL GARAGE AND WAREHOUSE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Mr. Merrel A. Coe, Municipal Architect, submitted a design by Messrs. Mills and Petticord, architects of Washington (who were present) for a Central Garage and Warehouse for the District of Columbia, to be built at Sixth and School Streets, S.W., opposite the Government Procurement Building and adjacent to the railroad tracks.

The design was inspected. The building will measure 265 x 215 feet, and 188 feet on Virginia Avenue. For the present it is to be a three story building; later increased to seven stories. The two lower floors will be used for garage space for 340 cars. Above them will be the storage space.

The design was approved (Exhibit F).

9. DESIGNS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS: Mr. Merrel A. Coe, Municipal Architect, submitted the following designs for public school buildings:

(a) Kelly Miller Junior High School, 49th Street and Washington Place, N.E.: It was noted that the stair towers had been restudied, as suggested at the meeting of the Commission on June 21st. The Commission made a further suggestion to use, in the spandrels and around the entrance way, brick

4. The American Campaign Medal: The Commission were not enthusiastic over any of the sketches by Mr. Deore, portraying a soldier. The Commission advised that a map of North America and South America as indicated would be objectionable, however as South America is connected, more particularly since the soldier's head is on Argentina. The Commission saw no way of arranging this in a satisfactory manner and therefore suggested omitting it.

The Commission recommended that the soldier stand on a globe, which might have an indication of North America and South America on it. A medal or it. Deore to illustrate this was deemed desirable.

A detailed report embodying these criticisms and suggestions, with the return of the models and sketches, was sent to General Hillenkoetter (Exhibit 3).

5. CHURCH GROUP AND CAMPHOUSE FOR THE ACADEMY OF ALBANIA: Mr. Merrel a. Doe, Municipal Architect, submitted a design by Deare, Hills and Petticord, architects of Washington (who were present) for a Central Church and Camphouse for the Academy of Columbia, to be built at Ninth and School Streets, S.C., opposite the Government Proceedings Building and adjacent to the railroad tracks.

The design was accepted. The building will measure 265 x 215 feet, and 188 feet on Virginia Avenue. For the present it is to be a three story building; later increased to seven stories. The two lower floors will be used for storage space for 640 cars. Above them will be the storage space.

The design was approved (Exhibit 4).

6. BUILDING FOR FIELD SCHOOL BUILDING: Mr. Merrel A. Doe, Municipal Architect, submitted the following designs for public school buildings:

(a) Emily Miller Junior High School, 44th Street and Washington Place, N.C.:

It was noted that the exit towers had been reversed, as suggested at the meeting of the Commission on June 31st. The Commission made a further

instead of cast stone. Later Mr. Coe reported that the structural plans for the building have all been completed, and that it would be very costly to make a new set of drawings. The design was therefore approved as submitted.

(b) Birney Elementary School; Nichols Avenue and Sumner Road, S.E.: It was noted that the building has an odd shape at a corner of the grounds. Mr. Coe stated that the shape was dictated by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, so as to take up less playground space. Limestone is to be used in construction. The design was approved.

(c) Nalle Elementary School, 50th Street between 'B' and 'C' Streets, S.E.: It was noted that this is to be a 24 class-room building, in brick, with architectural concrete trim. In shape it is to be in the form of a right-angle, measuring 288 feet at the base and 176 feet on the side; two stories and basement. The design was approved.

(d) Sousa Junior High School; Ely Place between 36th and 37th Street, S.E.: It was noted that this was a revised design, the stair towers having been restudied. However, Mr. Coe said the school has been enlarged because additional land has been bought recently to make this possible. The Commission suggested rearrangement of windows or omission of some of them to give more solid wall space. It is understood that there will be a resubmission of the design.

A report was sent to Mr. Coe embodying these criticisms and suggestions (Exhibit G).

10. ANACOSTIA BRANCH LIBRARY, 18th Street and Good Hope Road, S.E.: The design which Mr. Coe submitted was a revised design of one considered at the June meeting of the Commission. Limestone is to be used.

The Commission suggested square windows for the ground floor, carrying them around the end wall, so as to make a stronger base. The Commission also suggested making the large "main" window slightly smaller, so as to enlarge the pier at the corner; and changing the triple window at the end of the building into one large window. The Commission approved the design, subject to these suggestions, which will be embodied in the final drawing (Exhibit G).

11. RECEIVING HOME FOR CHILDREN, north side of Mt.Olivet Road west of Corcoran Street, N.E.: The design was inspected. The Commission suggested omitting the middle tower (used for stairway) shown in the design, and expressed the desire to see elevations and a perspective (Exhibit G).

12. NEW SHIPSTEAD LUCE ACT MAP: Major General U. S. Grant III, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, submitted a preliminary map proposing revisions in the official Shipstead-Luce Act Map, which has not been changed since the year 1939. The following locations were tentatively agreed to as additions for enlarging the area prescribed by the Shipstead-Luce Act:

New location for the Cosmos Club and square opposite the one designated for the State Department. Site for new Navy Building. Location for General Accounting Office. Area next to the War College, to protect the proposed War Memorial Museum. Additions to Rock Creek Park area. A map illustrating these areas is to be submitted to the Commission for study. Possible inclusion of some of the area on East Capitol Street was mentioned.

13. BUILDING FOR CALL CARL (INCORPORATED): The Commission confirmed the action taken by Chairman Clarke on September 19, 1946, in approving a design for a building of "Call Carl, Inc.", at 435-439 H Street, N.W., opposite the site of the General Accounting Office Building (Exhibit H).

The Commission suggested square windows for the ground floor, carrying them around the end walls, so as to make a attractive base. The Commission also suggested making the large "main" window slightly smaller, so as to enlarge the plaza at the corner; and eliminating the triple window at the end of the building into one large window. The Commission approved the design, subject to these suggestions, which will be embodied in the final drawing (Exhibit I).

11. INSTALLING NEON TUBE SIGNS, north side of M. Oliver Road west of Corcoran Street, N.W.: The design was inspected. The Commission suggested omitting the middle tower (used for stairway) shown in the design, and expressed the desire to see elevations and a perspective (Exhibit O).

12. NEW SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT MAP: Major General U. S. Grant III, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, submitted a preliminary map proposing revisions in the official Shipstead-Luce Act Map, which has not been changed since the year 1930. The following locations were tentatively agreed to as additions for enlarging the area prescribed by the Shipstead-Luce Act:

New location for the Cosmos Club and square opposite the one designated for the State Department. Site for new Navy Building.

Location for General Accounting Office. Area west of the New College, to protect the proposed War Memorial Avenue. Addition to Park Street area. A map illustrating these areas is to be submitted to the Commission for study. Possible inclusion of some of the area on East Capitol Street and Pennsylvania.

13. AVIATION END GATE PARK (INSTRUCTIONS): The Commission considered the motion taken by Chairman Clarke on September 19, 1946, in approving a design for a building of "Hall Cant, Inc.", at 4th-4½ Street, S.W., opposite the site of the General Accounting Office Building (Exhibit H).

14. MEMORIAL FLAGPOLE FOR THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL INSTITUTE: Under date of September 6, 1946, the following letter was received from Eggers & Higgins, Architects, 542 Fifth Avenue, New York City:

The Fine Arts Commission,
Washington, D.C.
Gentlemen:

It is proposed to erect on the grounds of the American Pharmaceutical Building, facing Constitution Avenue, a Memorial Flagstaff.

We are sending to you a print of the detailed drawing, plus a perspective drawing, for consideration by the Commission at your earliest convenience.

The base of the flagstaff is bronze, and the exedra is of marble to match the existing building.

Very truly yours,
Eggers and Higgins.

The design was inspected. The Secretary reported that the flagpole is being made possible by a gift of $25,000 from one of the members of the Institute and is to be a Memorial to the Pharmacists who died in the Service during World War II. A model for the base is being made.

The Commission noted the location selected for the flagpole at the southwest corner of the building. There is also to be a memorial bench as part of the setting, or exedra as above mentioned. After consideration the Commission approved the design, subject to the approval of the model for the base and the landscape setting for the Memorial. (Exhibit I)

15. LABORATORY BUILDING FOR THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL INSTITUTE: The Secretary reported that a few days ago Dr. R. P. Fishelis, Secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Institute informed him that the Institute has great need for a Laboratory Building and additional office space to be provided in a proposed new building to the north of the Headquarters Building up to 23d and C Streets, N.W. The Commission approved a design for it at a meeting held January 16, 1935, submitted by the then Office of John Russell Pope. The Secretary stated that the Institute still desires that the Government furnish the grounds for the new building, and Dr. Fishelis considers the design adopted in 1935 preliminary, a new lay-out being now necessary.

14. [illegible] [illegible]: [illegible]

date of December 9, 1940, the following letter was received from Eugene [illegible]

[illegible], Architects, 642 Fifth Avenue, New York City:

The Fine Arts Commission,
Washington, D.C.
Gentlemen:

It is proposed to erect on the grounds of the American [illegible]
Pharmaceutical Building, facing Constitution Avenue, a memorial flagstaff.
We are sending to you a print of the detailed drawing, plus
a perspective drawing, for consideration by the Commission at your
earliest convenience.

The base of the flagstaff is granite, and the angle is of
marble to match the existing building.

Very truly yours,

Eggers and Higgins.

The design was inspected. The Secretary reported that the flagpole is being made possible by a gift of $4,000 from one of the members of the Institute and is to be a memorial to the Pharmacists who died in the service during World War II. A model for the base is being made.

The Commission noted the location selected for the flagpole at the southwest corner of the building. There is also to be a memorial bench as part of the setting, as shown on maps mentioned. After consideration the Commission approved the design, subject to the approval of the model for the base and the landscape setting for the memorial. (Exhibit I)

15. [illegible] [illegible]: The Secretary reported that a few days ago Mr. E. F. Fiedler, Secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Institute informed him that the Institute has given need for a laboratory building and additional office space to be provided in a proposed new building to the north of the Headquarters Building up to 18th and C Streets, N.W. . The Commission approved a design for it at a meeting held January 14, 1938, submitted by the then Office of John Russell Pope. The Secretary stated that the Institute still desires that the Government furnish the grounds for the new building, and Mr. Fiedler contacted the design adopted in 1938 particularly, a new lay-out using the Memorial

16. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE BUILDING: Hon. W. E. Reynolds, Commissioner of Public Buildings, accompanied by Mr. J. E. Stanton, Deputy Commissioner for Design and Construction, and Mr. Gilbert Stanley Underwood, Supervising Architect, submitted a preliminary sketch for a new General Accounting Office Building, proposed for the square at Fifth and G Streets, N.W. It was proposed to enlarge the building considerably, providing for 10,000 employes, and do away with the necessity of building an Annex in the square across Fourth Street eastward. Mr. Reynolds explained the design and a discussion followed (Exhibit J).

The Commission favored the suggestion that the St.Mary's Church property be bought so as to make it possible to construct a building for the entire square, as well as one that is lower. A report was sent to Mr. Reynolds, approving the sketch submitted (Exhibit J-1).

17. VETERANS' HOSPITAL: The Commission were in conference with representatives of the Veterans' Administration and of the Federal Board of Hospitalization, Officers of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, a representative of York & Sawyer, of New York City, architects for the project, and the consulting architect, with regard to the proposed to erect a Veterans' Hospital of 750 beds on what is known as the Nevius Tract, comprising 25 acres, immediately north of Arlington National Cemetery, and on the axis of the Mall.

The project was regarded a most important one, and the Commission of Fine Arts was charged with the ultimate responsibility of advising as to a design for a building which would not be a blot in the landscape nor interfere with the view of the Lincoln Memorial from the base of the Washington Monument and from the Capitol. The conference was held to endeavor to agree on type of building, involving height and mass, and orientation. The conclusions reached were such as to indicate that the problem could be solved. A summary of the proceedings is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes (Exhibit K).

the design and a discussion followed (Exhibit 7).

The Commission favored the suggestion that the St.Mary's Church property be brought so as to make it possible to construct a building for the entire square, as well as one that is lower. A report was sent to Mr. Reynolds, approving the sketch submitted (Exhibit 7-J).

14. Veterans' Hospital: The Commission were in conference with representatives of the Veterans' Administration and of the Federal Board of Hospitalization, officers of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, a representative of Park & Tilford, of New York City, architects for the project, and the consulting architect, with regard to the proposal to erect a Veterans' Hospital of 4nd beds on what is known as the Bayview Tract, comprising 45 acres, immediately north of Fillmore National Cemetery, and on the main of the Hall.

The project was regarded a most important one, and the Commission of Fine Arts was charged with the ultimate responsibility of advising as to a design for a building which would not be a blot in the landscape nor interfere with the view of the Bronze Memorial from the base of the Washington Monument and from the Capitol. The conference was held to endeavor to agree on type of building, favoring height and mass, and orientation. The considerations leading thereto are made a part of these minutes (Exhibit 8).

18. MODEL OF THE CAPITOL: The Commission made an inspection of a model of the Capitol, proposing an extension of the central portion of the East front, as contemplated by Senate Bill 2505, introduced by Senator Andrews on August 2, 1940. Hon. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, and Mr. Fred M. Kramer, Chief Architectural and Engineering Assistant, explained the various schemes suggested, including the original scheme suggested by Thomas U. Walter in 1851 when his design for enlarging the Capitol was adopted. A modified scheme was made by Carrere & Hastings in 1905, which is mentioned in the Bill. A third scheme has been made since then, bringing the main central steps to about on a line with those of the Senate and House wings, thereby providing fully 40 additional committee rooms and a vestibule leading to the Rotunda. Photographs illustrating the schemes were also presented.

The Commission expressed interest in these various schemes and decided to give them consideration.

19. REMOVAL OF FOUNTAIN AT EAST GATE OF THE WHITE HOUSE: The Commission were in conference with Hon. H. G. Crim, Chief Usher of the White House, and Lorenzo S. Winslow, architect, and inspected with them an old fountain at the East Gate of the White House. Mr. Crim said it is desirable to have this removed and take out an inset of the fence, making the fence extend in a straight line on East Executive Avenue. Mr. Winslow presented a drawings, illustrating the scheme, which the Commission approved (Exhibit L). A few suggestions were made as pertaining to the grading of the slope from the Porte Cochère eastward to the sidewalk.

20. FREER GALLERY OF ART: The Commission inspected a number of objects of art presented by Mr. Archibald G. Wenley, Director of the Freer Gallery of Art, for purchase. The Commission approved them (Exhibit M).

presented.

The Commission expressed interest in these various schemes and decided to give them consideration.

19. REMOVAL OF FOUNTAIN AT EAST GATE OF THE WHITE HOUSE: The Commission were in conference with Hon. H. G. Grim, Chief Usher of the White House, and Lorenzo W. Winslow, architect, and inspected with them an old fountain at the East gate of the White House. Mr. Grim said it is desirable to have this removed and take out an inset of the fence, moving the fence extend in a straight line on East Executive Avenue. Mr. Winslow presented a drawing, illustrating the scheme, which the Commission approved (Exhibit I). A few suggestions were made as pertaining to the grading of the slope from the Potomac Gardens eastward to the sidewalk.

20. FREER GALLERY OF ART: The Commission inspected a number of objects of art presented by Mr. Archibald H. Healy, Director of the Freer Gallery of Art, for purchase. The Commission approved them (Exhibit K).

21. CHANGES IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHAMBERS: Hon. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, had advised the Secretary that the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts was particularly desired in a matter that involved changing the location of a clock in each of the Senate and House of Representatives Chambers, to be located above the parapet coping, as the crowning sculptural motive of the central feature back of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

Mr. Lynn reported that members of the Press Gallery objected to the projection of the clock as interfering with the view of the Gallery.

The subject was discussed with Mr. Harbeson, representing the Consulting Architects, and Mr. Francis P. Sullivan, Associate Architect for the project.

Mr. Harbeson urged the importance of having the break in the coping as above indicated, and the Commission agreed with him. It was thought the clock might go elsewhere. The matter is to be given further study.

Mr. Harbeson then submitted a number of drawings, in detail, showing proposed treatment of the Senate and House Chambers. These were inspected by the Commission.

The conclusions reached were embodied in a letter by Mr. Harbeson addressed to Mr. Sullivan (Exhibit N).

The Commission adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

COPY

Office of Douglas Orr, architect Ninety-six Grove Street, New Haven, Connecticut
Douglas W. Orr, F.A.I.A. Thornton J. Converse William Douglas H. Dillingham Palmer
Robins H. Miller

August 29, 1946.

TENTATIVE REPORT ON PRELIMINARY STUDIES

FOR STATUE OF NATHAN HALE

After my preliminary visit to the proposed site for the Statue of Nathan Hale, I asked Mr. Zantzinger, Architect, for elevations of the Department of Justice Building so that I could more adequately study the relation of the figure and pedestal with the facade of the building.

The figure is relatively small, in fact only slightly more than life size and I had felt that it might appear rather inconsequential against the facade of the building.

When viewed in direct elevation with the building it appears very small but when observed in perspective it appears to take its place quite well.

The scale of the Justice Building accessories, such as lighting and flagpole standards, is large and I had felt that they might overpower the figure. Consequently I have twice revisited the site before making final studies and am suggesting the location of the statue centered on the pier as shown in the direct elevation.

This appears to give it the best location both with regard to the entrance and pavilion standards and with the planting.

The detail of the base has been kept in general conformity with some of the detail of the building and I feel it properly related to both the statue and the building. It seems rather desirable to have the base rectangular in form rather than square, carrying it up to the same height as the parapet wall adjacent to the building. I have added a drum under the statue to give a little more height, but it seemed better that this drum oe in bronze rather than in granite. Without the drum, the statue standing directly on the base gave a rather poor relationship between base and figure.

Because color in the base is quite important in relation to the building, I would suggest using the same granite as was used in the building.

EXHIBIT A

August 29, 1946.

After my preliminary visit to the proposed site for the statue of Virgin Mary, I wanted to, tentatively, request, for elevations of the Department of Treetops Building so that I could more adequately study the relation of the figure and pedestal with the facade of the building.

The figure is relatively small, in fact only slightly more than life size and I feel that it might appear rather inconsequential against the facade of the building.

When viewed in direct elevation with the building it appears very small but when observed in perspective it appears to take its place quite well.

The scale of the Treetops Building accessories, such as lighting and flagpole standards, is larger than I had felt that they might appear. Consequently I have also revised the site before making final sketches and am suggesting the location of the statue centered on the plot as shown in the direct elevation.

This appears to give it the best location both with regard to the entrance and pavilion steps and with the planting.

The detail of the base has been kept in general conformity with some of the detail of the building and I feel it properly related to both the statue and the building. It seems rather desirable to have the base rectangular in form rather than square, carrying it up to the same height as the parapet wall adjacent to the building. I have added a drum under the statue to give a little more height, but it seemed better that this drum be in bronze rather than in granite. Without the drum, the statue standing directly on the base gave a rather poor relationship between base and figure.

Because color in the base is quite important in relation to the building, I would suggest using the same granite as was used in the building.

COPY

The Commission of Fine Arts
Washington

October 7, 1946.

Dear Mr. Orr:

Recently Major Fox submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts prints of your drawings for the pedestal of the Statue of Nathan Hale, to be erected on grounds of the Department of Justice Building, along Constitution Avenue, this City. They received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on October 4, 1946 .

The Commission are strongly of the opinion that, even though the statue is comparatively small, it would be best not to change the bronze plinth of the statue. The Commission suggest that the pedestal be square and slightly higher from the ground level to the base of the bronze plinth, so as to make up the difference in its retention; reduce the height of the platform to six (6:00") inches The Commission recommend a honed finish granite.

Also, the Commission recommend incised lettering on the base, so as to make a decorative panel, which might well include the famous words by Nathan Hale: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

If you concur in these suggestions, the Commission of Fine Arts would be pleased to see them embodied in a revised design.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Douglas Orr, F.A.I.A.,
96 Grove Street
New Haven, Connecticut.

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Exhibit B

The Commission of Fine Arts
Washington

October 7, 1946.

Dear Mr. Orr:

Recently Major Fox submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts photos of your drawings for the pedestal of the Statue of Nathan Hale, to be erected on grounds of the Department of Justice Building, along Constitution Avenue, this City. They received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on October 4, 1946.

The Commission are strongly of the opinion that, even though the statue is comparatively small, it would be best not to change the bronze plinth of the statue. The Commission suggest that the pedestal be square and slightly higher from the ground level to the base of the bronze plinth, so as to make up the difference in its reduction; reduce the height of the platform to six (6'-0") inches

The Commission recommend a honed finish granite.

Also, the Commission recommend incised lettering on the base, so as to make a decorative panel, which might well include the famous words by Nathan Hale: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

If you concur in these suggestions, the Commission of Fine Arts would be pleased to see them embodied in a revised design.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Mr. Douglas Orr, F.A.I.A.,
96 Grove Street
New Haven, Connecticut.

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Ovtober 7, 1946.

Dear Mr. Howard:

The models of the Iowa Centennial half dollar, which you submitted with your letter of October 1st, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on October 4, 1946.

In view of the fact that the models were submitted at such a late date, the Commission of Fine Arts imposes no objection to the minting of the coin.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Mr. Leland Howard,
Acting director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit C

October 7, 1946.

Dear Mr. Howard:

The medals of the Fine Arts Medal Dollar, which you exhibited with your letter of October 1st, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on October 4, 1946.

In view of the fact that the medals were modified at such a late date, the Commission of Fine Arts is unable to comment to the minting of the coin.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

Mr. Leland Howard,
Acting Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit I

October 7, 1946.

Dear Mr Howard:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 4, considered the models by Charles Keck, sculptor, which you submitted with your letter of October 1st. for the Booker T. Washington half dollar.

Also the Commission considered the models for this coin presented to you by Mr. Phillips of the Booker T.Washington, Birthplace Memorial Association, and submitted to the Commission with your letter of October 4th.

The Commission feel that the likeness of Booker T. Washingtom as shown on the model presented by Mr. Phillips is better than that on the model by Mr. Keck; therefore the Commission approve it for the obverse of that commemorative coin.

For the reverse Mr. Phillips will submitt a revised model embodying suggestions by the Commission of Fine Arts. It appears that the Association is anxious to portray both the cabin in which Booker T. Washington was born as a slave and the Hall of Fame, where he is commemorated. The Commission gave Mr. Phillips a sketch showing how this may be done in stylized form. The lettering on the models appears somewhat flat, perhaps too much so for minting purposes. Both sets of models are herewith returned:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman.

Mr. Leland Howard,
Acting Director of the Mint,
Treasury, Department,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit D.

October 7, 1946.

Dear Mr Howard:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 4, considered the models by Charles Keck, sculptor, which you submitted with your letter of October 1st. for the Booker T. Washington half dollar.

Also the Commission considered the models for this coin presented to you by Mr. Phillips of the Booker T.Washington, Birthplace Memorial Association, and submitted to the Commission with your letter of October 4th.

The Commission feel that the likeness of Booker T. Washington as shown on the model presented by Mr. Phillips is better than that on the model by Mr. Keck; therefore the Commission approve it for the obverse of that commemorative coin.

For the reverse Mr. Phillips will submit a revised model embodying suggestions by the Commission of Fine Arts. It appears that the Association is anxious to portray both the cabin in which Booker T. Washington was born as a slave and the Hall of Fame, where he is commemorated. The Commission gave Mr. Phillips a sketch showing how this may be done in stylized form. The lettering on the models appears somewhat flat, perhaps too much so for minting purposes.

Both sets of models are herewith returned:

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Leland Howard,
Acting Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman.

Exhibit D.

October 7, 1946.

Dear General Middleswart:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 4, 1946, considered the designs and models for the Theater of Operations Medals, which you submitted with your letter of September 17, The Commission report as follows:

1. Model of Eagle by A.A. Weinman for the reverse of all three medals; The Commission concur in the suggestions regarding the lettering, as contained in the second paragraph of your letter, as well as the criticism concerning the rim.

2. Model for obverse of the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; by Thomas Hudson Jones; The Commission advise that the lettering on this model should be similar in style to that shown on the model of the Eagle by Mr. Weinman. We think you will agree that the style of lettering for both obverse and reverse of the medal should be identical.

3. Model for obverse of the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal: The Commission note that this model is By Thomas Hudson Jones. The Commission understood that Edmond R. Amatais was chosen to make the model for the obverse of this medal. As to the statement in the last paragraph of your letter that the type of vessel portrayed by Mr. Amatais in his design was not used in that Campaign, the Commission regret that Mr Amatais

Exhibit E

October 7, 1946.

Dear General Middleswart:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 4, 1946, considered the designs and models for the Theater of Operations Medals, which you submitted with your letter of September 17. The Commission report as follows:

1. Model of Eagle by A.A. Weinman for the reverse of all three medals; The Commission concur in the suggestions regarding the lettering, as contained in the second paragraph of your letter, as well as the criticism concerning the rim.

2. Model for obverse of the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; by Thomas Hudson Jones; The Commission advise that the lettering on this model should be similar in style to that shown on the model of the Eagle by Mr. Weinman. We think you will agree that the style of lettering for both obverse and reverse of the medal should be identical.

3. Model for obverse of the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal: The Commission note that this model is By Thomas Hudson Jones. The Commission understood that Edmond R. Amatzia was chosen to make the model for the obverse of this medal. As to the statement in the last paragraph of your letter that the type of vessel portrayed by Mr. Amatzia in his design was not used in that Campaign, the Commission regret that Mr Amatzia

Exhibit E

was not given another opportunity to demonstrate an adequate development of his last design submitted. Since the criticism concerns mostly the type of ship, could he not change the ship to the proper type? The Commission regard the composition of his design superior to the one by Mr. Jones, However, in the event the issue id closed, the Commission will not interpose any further objection in this matter.

4. The American Campaign Medal. sketches by Gaetano Cecere. The Commission are hot enthusiastic over any of these sketches. The one preferred has been marked with an X. To have the soldier stand facing west tells only half the story so far as America is concerned, but to portray him in profile leaves little choice one way or the other.

The Commission advise that a map of North America and South-America as indicated would be objectionable, in so far as South America is concerned, more particularly since the soldier's heel is on Argentine: the Commission see no way of arranging this in a satisfactory manner and therefore suggest omitting it.

The Commission recommend that the soldier stand on a globe, which might have an indication of North America and South America on it. The Commission would be pleased to see a plaster cast by Mr. Cecere embodying this suggestion, if it meets with the approval of the General Staff.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman.

Brigadier General W.H. Middleswart, Assistant,
Office of the Quartermaster General,
War Department,
Washington, D.C.

COPY

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Washington

October 10, 1946

Dear Mr. Coe:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 4, 1946, considered the design by Mills & Petticord, Architects, for a Central Garage and Warehouse for the District of Columbia, which you submitted. It is understood that the building will be built at Sixth and School Streets, S.W., adjacent to the railroad and not far from the Government Procurement Building.

The Commission approved the design.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Merrel A. Coe, Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit F

COPY

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Washington

October 10, 1946

Dear Mr. Coe:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 4, 1946, considered the design by Wells & Pettigrew, Architects, for a Central Garage and Warehouse for the District of Columbia, which you submitted. It is understood that the Building will be built at Sixth and School Streets, S.W., adjacent to the railroad and not far from the Government Procurement Building.

The Commission approved the design.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Merrel A. Coe, Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit F

COPY

October 10, 1946.

Dear Mr. Coe:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 4, 1946, considered the designs for public buildings which you submitted and report as follows:

(a) Kelly Miller Junior High School, 49th Street and Washington Place, N.E.: It was noted that the stair towers had been restudied, as suggested at the meeting of the Commission on June 21st. The Commission made a further suggestion last Friday to use brick in the spandrels and around the entrance way, but understand that because of completion of structural plans, it is impractical to make the change. The design is therefore approved as submitted.

(b) Birney Elementary School, Nichols Avenue and Sumner Road, S.E.: It was noted that the building has an odd shape at a corner of the grounds, so as to take up less playground space than otherwise. Design approved.

(c) Nalle Elementary School, 50th Street between 'B' and 'C' Streets, S.E.: It was noted that this is to be a 24 class-room building, in brick, with architectural concrete trim. Design approved.

(d) Sousa Junior High School, Ely Place between 36th and 37th Streets, S.E.: It was noted that this was a revised design, the stair towers having been restudied, but because additional land has been bought recently the size of the school has been enlarged. The Commission suggest rearrangement of windows or omission of some of them to give more solid wall space. It is understood that there will be a resubmission of the design.

(e) Anacostia Branch Library, 18th Street and Good Hope Road, S.E.: It was noted that the design had been restudied since the meeting of the Commission last June.

The Commission suggest square windows for the ground floor, carrying them around the end wall, so as to make a stronger base. The Commission also suggest making the large "main" window slightly smaller, so as to enlarge the pier at the corner; and changing the triple window at the end of the building into one large window. With these suggestions, the Commission approved the design. It is understood limestone will be used.

(f) Receiving Home for Children, north side of Mt. Olivet Road west of Corcoran Street, N.E.

The Commission suggested omitting the middle tower shown in the design, and expressed the desire to see elevations and a perspective.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,
Chairman.

Mr. Merrel A. Coe,
Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT G

October 10, 1946.

Dear Mr. Coe:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 4, 1946, considered the designs for public buildings which you submitted and report as follows:

(a) Kelly Miller Junior High School, 49th Street and Benning Road, N.E.: It was noted that the steel towers had been restyled, as suggested at the meeting of the Commission on June 21st. The Commission made a further suggestion last Friday to use brick in the spandrels and around the entrance way, but understood that because of simplification of structural plans, it is impractical to make the change. The design is therefore approved as submitted.

(b) Sidney Hamentary School, Nichols Avenue and Sumner Road, S.E.: It was noted that the building has an odd shape at a corner of the grounds, so as to take up less playground space than otherwise. Design approved.

(c) Hella Elementary School, 50th Street between 'B' and 'C' Streets, N.E.: It was noted that this is to be a 24 classe-room building, in brick, with architectural concrete trim. Design approved.

(d) Jones Junior High School, 17th Place between 20th and 21st Streets, N.E.: It was noted that this was a revised design, the stair towers having been restyled, but because additional land has been bought recently the size of the school has been enlarged. The Commission suggest rearrangement of windows or omission of some of them to give more solid wall space. It is understood that there will be a resubmission of the design.

(e) Langdale Branch Library, 16th Street and Good Hope Road, S.E.: It was noted that the design had been restyled since the meeting of the Commission on last June.

The Commission suggest square windows for the ground floor, carrying them around the end wall, so as to have a stronger base. The Commission also suggest making the large "main" window slightly smaller, so as to enlarge the pier at the corner; and changing the triple window at the end of the building into one large window. With these suggestions, the Commission approved the design. It is understood limestone will be used.

(f) Receiving Home for Children, north side of Mt. Olivet Road east of Gotcher Street, N.E.:

The Commission suggested omitting the middle tower shown in the design, and expressed the desire to see elevations and a perspective.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

CLINCHE D. CLARKE,
Secretary.

Mr. Harrel R. Coe,
Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D.C.

COPY

The Commissiom Of Fine Arts

Washington

September 19, 1946.

Dear Mr. Camalier:

The design which you sumitted with your letter of August 21st. for a building of"Call Carl,Inc.," at 435-439 H Street, Nórthwest, has received the attention of the Commissiom of Fine Arts.

The Commission approve the design, provided that limestone will be used throughout, omitting entirely all so-called "early mosaic." And provided , also, that the large sign indicated on the drawing is omitted. The Commission will expect the submission of a dèsign for an appropiate sign for the building not to exceed 25 square feet in area.

For Commission of Fine Arts;

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Renah F. Camalier
1366 National Press Building,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit H

The Commission Of Fine Arts

Washington

September 19, 1925.

Dear Mr. Camalier:

The design which you submitted with your letter of August 21st. for a building of "Call Carl,Inc.," at 435-439 H Street, Northwest, has received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The Commission approves the design, provided that limestone will be used throughout, omitting entirely all so-called "early mosaic." And provided , also, that the large sign indicated on the drawing is omitted. The Commission will except the submission of a design for an appropiate sign for the building not to exceed 25 square feet in area.

For Commission of Fine Arts;

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. Renah F. Camalier

1300 Metropolitan Press Building,

Washington, D.C.

Exhibit H

Copy

The Commission of Fine Arts

Washington

October 4 1946

Dear Sir:

The design which you submitted with your letter of Septenber 6th., for a flagstaff to be erected on the grounds of the American Pharmaceutical Assiciation Building, has received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission approved the design at threi meeting today, subject to the approval of the model for the base. It is understood that a model is being prepared for it. Also it would seem, some attention should be given to the landscape setting so as not to disturb the planting which flanks the west side of the building.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Messrs, Eggers & Higgins, Architects,

542 Fifth Avenue

New York, N.Y.

Exhibit I

Copy

General Accounting Office Building

A meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was held in room 7000, South Interior Building, 18th, and "C" Streets, Washington, D.C., on Friday morning, October 4, 1946, at eleven-fifteen o'clock, Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman of the Commission, presiding.

Chairman Clarke: Mr. Reynolds?

Mr. W.E. Reynolds (Commissioner of Public Buildings): Under the proposals we first made to the Congress for a building for the General Accounting Office there would be a building built immeadiately north of their present location, which is the old Pension Office.

Then, in order to get enough space, we applied to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to also use the square immediately east of the new location and to build a tunnel connecting the two buildings.

In reviewing the situation, and after further studying the requirements of the General Accounting Office, we feel that we can build a block building on the one square that we own. This will eliminate the second building across the street. We can still give the setbacks requested by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, if we can get approval of six floors with a two-floor setback. The National Capital Park and Planning Commission has approved that scheme.

We are now in negotiating with the Catholic Church which owns a small portion of thet property. St. Marys' Church, and they told me in the letter I just received that they were considering the matter, but that the pastor was on vacation and they could not give a definate determination at that time. I told the Commission if we could get that portion of the block we could reduce the building to five stories in height for the block portion and two stories on the setback.

The building as now designed has very close column spacing and a limited amount of garage facilities. It is a wing-type structure. In our studies as to what could be done and a general priniciple which we hope to apply in many locations--we are now going to 25-foot column spacing. That gives a modlues of 12.5 feet.

Formerly we usually used 20-foot spacing, which provides an office 20-feet in depth. Assuming one person occupancy, that is 400 square feet per person, which generally is more than needed. With 12-1/2 module they can do their business just as well.

Also there has been under consideration by the Congress, legislation that would require us to provide parking for 10 per cent of the people. The building as now designed, with many columns, would not provide good space for this purpose. The new design would be a block building with no wings whatsoever. The entire basement would entirely given over the garage areas. We have not had time to prepare any architectural studies on this, other than block scheme that we have-

Exhibit J.

General Accounting Office Building

A meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was held in room 7000, South Interior Building, 19th and C Streets, Washington, D.C., on Friday morning, October 6, 1939, at eleven-fifteen o'clock, Mr. Gilmore T. Clarke, Chairman of the Commission, presiding.

Chairman Clarke: Mr. Reynolds?

Mr. [illegible], Supervising Engineer of Public Buildings [illegible]: When the proposals we first made to the Congress for a building for the General Accounting Office there would be a building until immediately north of their present location, which is the old Pension Office.

Then, in order to get enough space, we supplied to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to also use the square immediately east of the new location and to build a tunnel connecting the two buildings.

In reviewing the situation, and after further studying the requirements of the General Accounting Office, we feel that we can build a block building on the one square that we own. This will eliminate the second building across the street. We can still give the setbacks requested by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, if we can get approval of six floors with a two-floor setback. The National Capital Park and Planning Commission has approved that scheme.

We are now in negotiating with the Catholic Church which owns a small portion of that property, St. Marys' Church, and they told me in the letter I just received that they were considering the matter, but that the pastor time. I told the Commission if we could get that portion of the block we could reduce the building to five stories in height for the block portion and two stories on the setback.

The building as now designed has very close column spacing and a limited amount of garage facilities. It is a wing-type structure. In our studies as to what could be done as a general principle which we hope to apply in many locations--we are going to 25-foot column spacing. That gives a modules of 12.5 feet.

[illegible] usually used 25-foot spacing, which provides an office 20-feet in depth. Assuming one person occupancy, that is 400 square feet per person, which generally is more than needed. With 12-1/2 module they can do their business just as well.

Also there has been under consideration by the Congress, legislation that would require us to provide parking for 10 per cent of the people. The building as now designed, with many columns, would not provide good space for this purpose. The new design would be a block building with no other structure. The entire basement would entirely given over the garage areas. We have not had time to prepare any architectural studies on this, other than block schemes that we have-

before you, which does not tell you a very great deal, of course.

We hope to overcome the effects of claustrophobia by having, in the rather large open spaces, low partitions so that you can see the daylight and landscape, which apparently the doctors say is all that is needed.

Near the perimeter of the building there will be a corridor which will serve private offices developed in the perimeter itself. Most of their work is mass operation with a great many active files. These can be put in the central portion of the building. They will then have access to their files and not have separate files building. The cost of putting in that space, rather than open courts, is very little because you save so much wall space.

That is the General Principle.

Chairman Clarke: Will that increase the accounting space?

Mr. Reynolds: We find that we can design a frame of construction on a 25-foot span that is cheaper than the normal beam and girder design. On a comparable basis it runs about 30 cents a square foot less. We put in the column head and depressed panel. We suspend all of the conduits underneath the flat slab. That would be for the general distribution of air. Then we syspend the ceiling under the whole works. We do not have to puncture beams. We have a level and uniforms ceiling throughout so in the moving of partitions, such as movable partitions, there is no difficulty.

We are designing a building exactly similar to this in Nashville, more or less as a test case. The building is not as big, but it is 100 x 325, a beautiful block building. A large part of the area is to be used by the Veterans Administration with big mass operations, and everybody is pleased with it, including the local architect designing it for us.

We think we have somethingg new in the frame of the building and in open spaces. The more columns you get out, the better operation you can have. As I say, at first blush you would think a 25-foot column would cost more money, but that is not necessarily true.

Chairman Clarke: What are the prospects of cleaning this whole thing up and getting the Church property?

Mr. Reynolds. We do not know. I had my discussion with the Chancellor. They face this problem: The Church is very old. The grandfathers and the fathers of the present generation have all been baptised there and have connections there and things of that sort.

I told him I thought it would be better for them to have a new building with new heating and lighting and so forth. He said that would be very nice but he did not think we would pay enough for that to be done.

I said I thought the Church was a little bit larger than was presently needed. It was built many , many years ago. I also said I thought he need not fear as far as a stipulation of price was concerned, that we would be realistic because it would help so much to get that property.

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That is the General Principle.

Chairman Clarke: Will that increase the accounting space?

Mr. Reynolds: We find that we can design a frame of construction on a 45-foot span that is cheaper than the normal beam and girder design. It's a comparable basis it runs about 50 cents a square foot less. We put in the column head and depressed canal. We suspend all of the conduits underneath the flat slab. That would be for the general distribution of air. Then we prepared the ceiling under the whole works. We do not have to puncture beams. We have a level and uniform ceiling throughout so in the moving of partitions, such as movable partitions, there is no difficulty.

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Chairman Clarke: That Church is in a business section now. People must come a long way to go there. It was built when thatxwas a residential area.

Mr. Reynolds: They have a lot people who come to noon services and apparently they want a church down in that area. But it could be moved across the street.

Chairman Clarke: What is the height of the top of the second setback? Is that 90 feet?

General U.S.Grant,III: One is a seven-story building. One is an eight-story building.

Mr. Reynolds: It will be seven if we can get the property, and eight if we cannot. We are going to restudy the penthouse to improve the appearence.

General Grant: The eight-story building we have approved if nothing else can be done but the Commission does not like it too much because that is on an eminence that will be quite prominent from all northwest part of the city and we felt that perhaps it was not a building that should be made too pre-eminent.

On the other hand we do feel very strongly the advantage of getting it all on that block and not having to build an addition on the adjacent block.

Chairman Clarke: Of course the chances are that some day the government will require the church anyway, in the course of time.

Mr. Reynolds: I would not be surprised.

Mr. Clarke: Of course the population is moving further and further away. Except, of course, there is the question you raised about the noonday services becoming more and more important.

You know they have built a church in New York, right opposite the New York Municipal Building and right behind the court. No one lives down there. It is a noontime proposition entirely. It is a brand new church. It has been there only a few years.

What do you want from us? We assume that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission is going along with the proposition, hopeful that it can be a story lower but if it cannot, will go along the way you have shown it.

That being the case, if that Commission supports it, we will just wait for developments.

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(Plans)

Mr. Gilbert S. Underwood: It was seven and twenty, but we could not sell the Commission on it, they put it down another story.

Mr. Reynolds: I thought we should not go over six.

Mr. Underwood: Following the lead you gave us in New York, we knocked this out to see what would happen when we replaced the present red brick building. This would stay.

Chairman Clarke: You would have to raise the back wall behind it. It makes a handsome backdrop.

(General Discussion)

Chairman The population is about 10,000 but they are spread all around. The population in the area has not increased much.

General Grant: I thought you might be interested in the relative heights. That is the seven-story building, 64 feet up this high, and this is the old Pension Office Building which is a very prominent feature at the present time as seen from the north.

This is the building which you have discussed as the Court Building, probably taking the place of the Pension Office, and these are the Municipal Court and Criminal Court.

Chairman Clarke: If the heights of the Municipal and Criminal Courts can be carried around at the end of the quadrangle, it will cut off any view of this from the Interior anyhow.

General Grant: It is not from down here, but from the city around, that it is important if it is made to high.

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General Discussion.

JML:bm

Sept. 23, 1946

Supervising Architect

Chief of Design

General Accounting Office

In accordance with your instructions, and analysis and preliminary diagrammatic sketches on the above project are submitted.

Studies are based on a building with basement, eight (8) stories and penthouse (M.E. floor) on presently owned site. It should be noted that we enroach approximately ten feet on G Place in order to get a forty-foot setback from the property line along "G" Street.

The seventh and eighth stories are set back to the first line of columns. Columns are spaced to provide 18 feet clear office space on the first six stories. Interior columns are spaced 25 feet apart both ways.

The net agency areas given are exclusive of permanent corridors, public areas, circulation, custodial areas including shops, locker rooms, ect., cafeteria, mechanical engineering, parking and other non-agency spaces. They do include intra-office and private corridors.

Analysis follows:

Area of Site

Present property	276,310 sq. ft.
G Place (enroachment)	1,800 " "
Total area	278,110 " "

Ground Area of building 211,900 sq. ft.

Percentage of site covered by building 76%

Breakdown of Areas

Floor	Gross Area	Net Agency Area	%
B	211,900	0	0
1	211,900	95,000	45
2	211,900	169,000	80
3	211,900	169,000	80
4	211,900	169,000	80
5	211,900	169,000	80
6	211,900	169,000	80
7	174,500	130,000	75
8	174,500	130,000	75
M.E. (Penthouse)	90,000	0	0
Totals	1,922,300	1,200,000	62%

Mr. Iba

Sept. 24, 1960

Supervising Architect

Chief of Design

General Accounting Office

In accordance with your instructions, and analysis and preliminary diagrammatic sketches on the above project are submitted.

Studies are based on a building with basement, eight (8) stories and penthouse (M.E. Floor) on presently owned site. It should be noted that we approach approximately ten feet on G Place in order to get a forty-foot setback from the property line facing "G" Street.

The seventh and eighth stories are set back to the first line of columns. Columns are spaced to provide 13 feet clear office space on the first six stories. Interior columns are spaced 25 feet apart both ways.

The net agency areas are exclusive of permanent corridors, public areas, circulation, vestibial areas including shops, locker rooms, cafeteria, mechanical equipment, parking and other non-agency spaces. They do include interior-office and private corridors.

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6	211,900	169,000	80
7	174,500	130,000	75
8	174,500	130,000	75
M.E. (Penthouse)	90,000	0	0
Totals	1,922,500	1,200,000	62%

Personel and File Areas

Files (net area)	340,000 sq.ft.
Personel (net area)	860,000 " "
Number personel 100 sq. ft. per person	8,600 " "
Approximate ration file area to personnel area	2:5

Automobile Parking (Basement) 425 Spaces

COPY

October 10, 1946.

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 4, 1946, were pleased to consider a preliminary sketch which you submitted for the General Accounting Office Building, at Fifth and G Streets, N.W., and discuss the subject with you. The Commission took note of the fact that this enlarged building would eliminate the necessity of building an "Annex" across Fourth Street, as had been contemplated. The desire to acquire St. Mary's Church property was favored by the Commission, in view of the possibility then to construct a building over the entire square.

The Commission will be pleased to consider elevations, etc., for the building at a future meeting.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Chairman.

Hon. W. E. Reynolds,
Commissioner of Public Buildings,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT J-1

EXHIBIT 1-I

Washington, D.C.
Commissioner of Public Buildings,
[illegible]
Mrs. M. M. Reynolds,

Chairman.

[illegible],

Sincerely yours,

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

for the building at a future meeting.

The Commission will be pleased to consider elevations, etc.,

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The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 4,

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

October 10, 1940.

COPY

COPY

Federal Works Agency,
Public Buildings Administration,
Washington 25.

October 14, 1946.

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
Fine Arts Commission,
Interior Department Building,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Thank you for your letter of October 10 about the proposed General Accounting Office at 5th and G Streets, N.W.

I still have no word from the Catholic Church on the acquisition of St. Mary's Parish. I hope they will consider our proposal favorably, as the purchase of this property would be of mutual advantage.

We are now studying the basic layout of the building and hope in the near future to present more definite studies to your Commission.

Sincerely yours,

W. E. Reynolds,

Commissioner of Public Buildings.

EXHIBIT J-2

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Thank you for your letter of October 10 about the proposed General Accounting Office at 5th and G Streets, N.W.

I still have no word from the Catholic Church on the negotiation of St. Mary's Parish. I hope they will consider our proposal favorably, as the purchase of this property would be of mutual advantage.

We are now studying the basic layout of the building and hope in the near future to present more definite studies to your Commission.

Sincerely yours,

J. E. Reynolds,

Commissioner of Public Buildings.

Veterans Hospital
Nevius Tract, Arlington County, Virginia.

October 4, 1946.

A conference was held during the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on October 4, 1946. on hte question of design and locations for the proposed Veteran's Hospital, to contain 750 beds, and proposed to be built on what is known as the Nevius Tract, prominently located in an area comprising 25 acres between the Arlington National Cemetary and the Lee Highway, along the Potomac River in Arlington County Virginia. In addition to the members of the Commission, excepting Mr. Sterne, and Mr. Shepley, there were present :

Colonel Donald G. White, District Engineer, U.S. Engineers Office,
Colonel F.H. Dryden, Assistant Administrator for Construction and Supplies, Veteran's Administrations,
Colonel Henry C. Wolfe, representing the Chief Of Engineers
Mr. B.Frank Bennett, Director, Federal Board of Hospitalization,
Mr. Wm. E.Jeffery, Architect, Office of the U.S. Engineers,
Mr. J.J. Rockerfeller, Director of Construction, Veterans' Admn.
Mr. Louis Justment Consulting Architect, for the project,
Mr. Aarom F. Kiff, of York & Sawyer, Architects for the project.
Major General U.S. Grant III, Chairman, National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Chairman Clarke opened the discussion by saying,---

This meeting results from a joint meeting with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission a month or two ago at which there was a discussion of the Nevius Tract for a Veterans' Hospital. Both Commissions expressed themselves as favoring no hospital on the Nevius site, but we realize, in the light of the fact that if we do not have the Veterans' Hospital we will probably have an apartment house, we are dealing with the lesser of two evils... We feel--- and I am sure you feel--- that it is exceedingly important in the National Capital to protect the socalled Central Composition of the Mall. The Nevius Tract is on the axis of the Mall extended over into the State of Virginia.

This Commission and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission from time to time have urged upon the Congress the purchase of that site as an addition to Arlington Cemetary, or as an addition to the Park system of the District of Columbia, without success. So we would like to be helpful and I am sure that in the selections of a site the Veterans' Bureau and the Corps of Engineers acting with them wish to cooperate to the end that an eyesore will not be created over in the hills of Virginia, viewed from the base of the Washington Monument and the Capitol Building--- the west terrace--so that this hospital will not appear to grow out of the roof of the Lincoln Memorial. We feel that something may be done there that will not be a serious blot. We ask your cooperation. We are particularly interested in protecting the plan of the National Capital. We naturally want to see the Central Composition maintained in its dignity.

I have asked Mr. Henry R. Shepley, who is a former member of this Commission and who has had long experience in the line of hospital building, if he would come here today as a guest. I am now going to ask whoever is in command among our visitors today to take over.

Colonel White: I am sure you realize that in fact we are most anxious to work with the Commission and to produce something that will be not only satisfactory but something with which you will be pleased. If you want a general discussion of the matter, we will hear from Colonel Dryden, of the Veterans' Administration and then from the Architects who have been selected.

Exhibit K

Exhibit K

Colonel Dryden: I am here representing General Bradley, As you know, following the suggestion made at the joint meeting, we have selected an architect to assist us all in approaching this problem.

As you know, we have not acquired the site. The site is not yet approved at this moment. The objectives of General Bradley--and I think the objection of everyone concerned--is that we should have workable hospital. It should be a hospital that operates efficiently and the expense of operation should be kept in mind too.

To assist us in carrying out that objective and working with the Commission, we have asked General Wheeler (Chief of Engineers) to make the selection of the architect for this hospital. They have been called in on the job, and as Colonel White said, they are present today. I might add that we are awfully anxious to arrive at a definite conclusion, We stress again that this matter of a hospital construction in the District of Columbia has been carried on for a long time and we have endeavored to find a site. The need for the hospital is acute. We want a successful conclusion as soon as possible.

Mr. Clarke remarked, I take it, Colonel, that both the Veterans Bureau and the Corps of Engineers wish to arrive at a preliminary stage in the development of these plans, to see whether or not we can all agree before you start the procedures necessary to acquire the property?

Colonel Dryden replies, As far as the Veterans' Administration is concerned, we are anxious to pick a site and we want it to cost as little as possible

Chairman Clarke: Am I correct that the acquisition of the site is dependent upon arriving at some general scheme of building that would meet with favor? In other words, you are not buying the site until the kind of building you are going to put up it is determined?

Colonel Dryden: The acquisition of the site is not the easiest of problems. In the selection of a site there are many factors. There are many, many objections being filed. There is a real administrative problem in trying to reach a conclusion.

Thereupon Chairman Clarke called on Colonel Henry C. Wolfe, representing the Chief of Engineers for a statement.

Colonel Wolfe: The only thing I would like to add to what Colonel Dryden has said is that we have engaged our architects but only within the last two or three days, and the progress up to this time has been very limited. We feel that any discussion on it ought to be exploratory, more or less, at this time.

Chairman Clarke remarked, We have discussed this very briefly among ourselves and realizing that Mr. Shepley has advised your office on occasion,I took the liberty--I hope without your disapproval-- of asking him here. I discussed it with him and I would like to have him say something about the general problem.

Colonel Wolfe: Yes, that is entirely satisfactory. He is a staff member we have called in to review plans for us from time to time.

Chairman Clarke: By reason of the fact that he has served here with us, he probably understands better the problems of Washington than others of your staff. If it would be appropriate in this particular instance, I am sure the Commission of Fine Arts would be very happy indeed if he could advise on this particular problem, if that would meet with your approval. It would be very helpful.

Colonel Wolfe: We will be pleased to have his advise.

Mr. Shepley: The discussion has been very general so far. The Commission has not been able to get together--or I do not know whether they want to---to determine on what type of hospital they would want on this particular site.

We are talking now as if this were the first problem put up. I understand that you perhaps were going to present some alternative sketches of different possible shapes.

Colonel Wolfe: Our architects have ideas on paper, very roughly, of course.

Colonel Dryden: I am here representing General Bradley, as you know, following the suggestion made at the joint meeting, we have selected an architect to assist us all in approaching this problem.

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Colonel Wolfe: Our architects have ideas on paper, very roughly, of course.

They have been on the job only two or three days but they do have some ideas that could possibly be discussed.

Mr. Shepley: One idea I think we should discuss is whether this building, this hospital group, should seem to be an extension of the Plan of Washington- in other words, whether it should be another memorial behind the Lincoln Memorial or whether if should be an incident in the Plan of Washington and face in some other direction, say south, so you felt you were not looking at another monument over the top of the Lincoln Memorial. Does that appear to be your idea?

Chairman Clarke remarked, Quite Right.

Mr. Shepley, That is the first thing Mr. Chairman. The second is whether it should be along, low group or a high group. If you have two ward units-- is it to be 1,000 beds?

Colonel Wolfe: Seven hundred fifty.

Mr. Shepley: The wards would be one above another, about twelve floors.

Colonel Wolfe: Ten or eleven.

Mr. Shepley: That would perhaps be the most efficient although you could probably get it down to seven.

Colonel Wolfe: Certainly not under seven, I believe.

Mr. Shepley: We have a sight line in another part of the building which I went out to see. It was very interesting.

Chairman Clarke then asked General Grant if he could arrange th have the modal of a sight line, prepared by Mr. Partridge for the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, brought into the room. It was made so as to look through a "key hole" from the Capitol down the Mall to the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, to the hills of Arlington, showing a proposed apartment house development at that location. The model was brought into the room and used.

Mr. Shepley: That sight line would perhaps determine what it should be. If you have height you reduce the width. With too much height you might have a tower growing out of the side of the Lincoln Memorial.

Colonel Wolfe.said their architects have prepared some sight lines.

Chairman Clarke: The question of height is one thing. The other question Mr. Shepley brought up is the question of mass. The third question is the question of orientation of the building with respect to whether or not it could be oriented on the south so,as to place it with the least amount of wall space east and west.

Mr. Shepley: In designing a hospital, if you face the hospital south, the end walls, the east and the west walls, do not necessarily have to have windows in them. You have 15-bed wards, presumbly.

Colonel Wolfe: They could be solid walls, yes,

Mr Shepley: That might be agreat advantage, and not having the regular balcony treatment.

Chairman Clarke: said that the night scene would be ruined if one would see a lot of lights over the Lincoln Memorial. Is it proper time to have the architects come in?

Mr. Shepley: If you consider that those are reasonable requests in which the architects would be glad to cooperate.

Colonel White: I am sure they would like to discuss them with you.

Mr. Jeffery: This would be most helpful to them.

Thereupon Mr. Kiff and Mr. Justement joined the group, and presented drawings.

Mr. Justement: These are two sight lines from the foot of the Monument and one taken from the end of 17th Street. The one taken from 17th Street is this red line and of course it is completely way above the ten or eleven-story building.

The green line is from the foot of the Monument and even that would be

They have been or the job only two or three days but they do have some ideas that could possibly be discussed.

Mr. Shepley: One idea I think we should discuss is whether this be lasting, this hospital group, should seem to be an extension of the Plan of Washington--in other words, whether it should be another memorial behind the Lincoln memorial or whether it should be an incident in the Plan of Washington and face in some other direction, say south, so you felt you were not looking at another monument over the top of the Lincoln Memorial. Does that appear to be your idea?

Chairman Clarke remarked, Quite right.

Mr. Shepley: That is the first thing Mr. Chairman. The second is whether it should be along, low group or a high group. If you have two ward units--is it to be 1,000 beds?

Colonel Wolfe: Seven hundred fifty.

Mr. Shepley: The wards would be one above another, about twelve floors.

Colonel Wolfe: Ten or eleven.

Mr. Shepley: That would perhaps be the most efficient although you could probably get it down to seven.

Colonel Wolfe: Certainly not under seven, I believe.

Mr. Shepley: We have a slight line in another part of the building which I went out to see. It was very interesting.

Chairman Clarke then asked General Grant if he could arrange to have the model of a slight line, prepared by Mr. Partridge for the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, brought into the room. It was made so as to look through a "key hole" from the Capitol down the Mall to the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, to the White House, showing a proposed apartment house development at that location. The model was brought into the room and used.

Mr. Shepley: That slight line would perhaps determine what it should be. If you have height you reduce the width. With too much height you might have a tower growing out of the side of the Lincoln Memorial.

Colonel Wolfe said their architects have considered some slight lines.

Chairman Clarke: The question of height is one thing. The other question Mr. Shepley brought up is the question of mass. The third question is the question of orientation of the building with respect to whether or not it could be oriented on the south so as to place it with the least amount of wall space east and west.

Mr. Shepley: In designing a hospital, if you have big hospital south, the end walls, the east and the west walls, do not necessarily have to have windows in them. You have 15-bed wards, presumably.

Colonel Wolfe: They could be solid walls, yes.

Mr. Shepley: That might be agreat advantage, and not having the regular windows, treatment.

Chairman Clarke: said that the night scene would be ruined if one needs a lot of lights over the Lincoln Memorial. Is it proper time to have the architects come in?

Mr. Shepley: If you consider that these are reasonable requests is which the architects would be glad to cooperate.

Colonel White: I am sure they would like to discuss them with you.

Mr. Leffery: This would be most helpful to them.

Thereupon Mr. Kift and Mr. Justement joined the group, and presented drawings.

Mr. Justement: These are two slight lines from the foot of the Monument and one taken from the end of 17th Street. The one taken from 17th street is this red line and of course it is completely way above the ten or eleven-story building

The green line is from the foot of the Monument and even that would be

above the top of the building. Considered horizontally and from those same points of view, just the ends of a building of approximately the length that would go there, as far as the major portion is concerned, would stick out beyond the end of the Memorial, and in the reflecting pool you see practically the whole thing.

Then what happens if you get up close to it? Obviously you could not get closer up here because you would then be in water. The nearest you could get would be up close just on the side of the Reflecting Pool.

Here is the sight line from the Memorial. If you were to look from the foot of the base of the Monument this would be the half line of a ten-story building and approximately the length that would be required.

If you made it seven stories high, that would be the height and, of course, the length would appear to be the same.

This black dotted line would be a ten-story building as seen from 17th Street, and if it were a seven-story building it would be that height.

Finally, if you get off on the side at that point, obviously you would see nothing at all on this side, but you would think from this side you would, but then it becomes so low in comparison with the Memorial that even the terraces of the Memorial are higher than a ten-story building across the river.

Chairman Clarke: What about the view from the west terrace of the Capitol. It is a long way off but it is a factor.

Mr. Kiff: This drawing (exhibiting) shows that. It is such a small scale I do not know whether you can read it. You see the white line from the Capitol. It would hit just above the ground on the site.

Chairman Clarke: You would see the whole building from the west terrace, the whole hospital building?

Mr. Kiff: It would hit up four of five stories, but if taken at the cornice line, it is lower.

Chairman Clarke: Before you came in, gentlemen, we discussed a few of the pertinent points that have to do with the philosophy of this thing.

One you have touched on this bulk of the building on the site. The other has to do with (and this is first) height. If seven stories could be worked out we would feel a lot better about it.

The other (third) is the matter of orientation, which might make it possible to dispose in the direction of the central axis of the Mall the ends of the building instead of the main entrance, realizing more particularly that the lights seen over and around would be more evident. If it could be placed on the south orientation it would seem more satisfactory and it seems that orientation in this climate would not be out of order... We realize you have had very little time on this but if you would wish to and could discuss the problems of the orientation, whether you could make it east and west we would appreciate it. How do you feel about orientation?

Mr. Kiff: I think it would be difficult. We will have a good many bedrooms in the hospital. If our axis is east and west we would end up with a lot of nothern exposures in bedrooms, which we would have to do.

Chairman Clarke: On the other hand, you get a great deal of southern exposure.

Mr. Kiff: It is difficult in these hospitals to get it in the customery way. We might find an entirely novel solution, which would cost a lot of money and things of that kind, but I doubt if we could get 750 beds with no beds on the nothern side if we limited ourselves to building on the east and west axis.

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site left in the area of the District. It would be fatal from the point of view of Washington if it looked, at night ae well as in the day, as if it grew out of the top of the Lincoln Memorial.

Mr. Reinhard. You get the tails out of the side of the Lincoln Memorial. You have the Lincoln Memorial here and the tails hanging out at night.

Mr. Shepley. I want to ask Mr. Kiff about this orientation. There have been hospitals built oriented south. One of them came out in the June Modern Hospital. The service on the 16-bed wards had north and south exposure. Some people consider north and south exposure best in a climate like this, to get the most sun in the winter and the least in the summer. You get sun in the afternoon if you have 16-bed wards at the end of the wings and you do not have to have any windows. Therefore you could present a blank wall to the city, of Washington which would not be lighted at night. If you did not have the solarium at the end--had it, say, at the south--it would present its narrow end.

Mr. Kiff. I would like to point out that the Veterans (program-- I am assuming we are just talking and we have to make compromises---their nursing unit is bound to be a unit that I would say be a minimum of about 18 feet, a six-bed ward. In other words, this type of building would probably develop into two units. I know from past experience that we simply cannot use up that distance with service on this program. What we can do is this:

The way they have it laid out on the criteria, on the basis of a perimeter of this kind, where this is ten bedrooms-- this is the 16-bed ward (indicating)-- actually it takes up that much of this space.

You push it out in a row and you have to put this stuff in here and you end with at least five of these rooms due north. As far as I am concerned ,,I do not think the southern exposure for a hospital will do. I feel sure from having had experience that we end up with northern rooms. If the Veterans' Administration will agree to that, I think it can be done.

Another thing, this would be a two-part scheme that way and that part would end being fourteen stories high.

Mr. Shepley: How would you get yours down to ten?

Mr. Kiff: I think we can discuss it. We think we can do it with three units to a floor. This job will take about nineteen nursing units-18 or 19--and it looks as if in order to keep the height down to seven or eight or nine stories, we will have to adopt three units, that a two part would get us up too many stories. If there is a little leeway, seven or eight stories could be managed that way, depending on what we do with the recreational facilities in this program, which are tremendous.

Mr. Shepley: I have not found the medical profession has any particular objection to the north rooms, that is, during the last fifteen years. They used to. In fact, north rooms are more advantageious in our own climate than in a more westerly climate. If the Veterans' Bureau would not object to the north rooms that would get us over the hurdle.

Mr. Murphy:Here in Washington we all want a house facing north and south.

Mr. Kiff. I would hate to dispute Mr. Shepley's opinion on that, but I still feel that every veteran should be flushed out with sun at least once a day. That is the object, rather than that they always have sun. But I do not think much of a hospital room if it does not at sometime of the day let the sun into it.

ChairmanClarke: You realize you have a special problem here.

Mr. Kiff: Sure I do! But I think we can solve the problem without setting up a stipulation of turning the building on the axis instead of across the axis. I think we might get a low section which would tend to step the thing back, which

site left in the area of the District. It would be fatal from the point of view of Washington if it looked, at night as well as in the day, as if it grew out of the top of the Lincoln Memorial.

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Chairman Clarke: You realize you have a special problem here.

Mr. Kitt: Sure I do! But I think we can solve the problem without getting in a situation of turning the building on the axis instead of across the axis. I think we might get a low section which would tend to step the thing back, which

it would tend to break up. I think a 500-foot wall here would be very unpleasent. I think we could break it up.

Mr. Shepley: Another thing the Commission discussed was that they did not feel that they would like the building to be extension of the monumental Plan of Washington, that it would not be attractive to have another monument facing you over the Lincoln Memorial.

Mr. Kiff.agreed to that.

Mr. Shepley: Then we thought if you saw the side instead of the front of it, it might be better.

Mr. Kiff: Well, I feel if we could possibly do it, with the road system out there, that we should perhaps not have a border of roads, but it should be planted and it should be the parts of the hospital where a lot of people are concreate, such as the mess hall—— those things tend to be monumental in character, big areas with special treatment. Something there will help the patients and will also help this project in not having a great forecourt here, with flagpoles, This is partly dependent on the peculiar road system.

Colonel White: It is just a mile from the Lincoln Memorial; from there about two miles to the Capitol

Mr. Aldrich: There is a big cushion of air in there. (General discussion)

Mr. Justement: We were discussing that before we came here, Mr. Kiff and I. I thought possibly if you do not want to use brick, that it could be possibly built with a stone of a warm color, that would blend in very nicely.

Mr. Aldrich: A cold color is more receding than a warm color.

Mr..Shepley: You mean, make it green like the trees?

Mr. Aldrich: There is a lot of air there. We ought to consider that as far as daylight is concerned.

The orientation of the building was then discussed further, and Mr. Kiff said, If you went to more nursing units, wouldn't it defeat the purpose if you had two bulks of high building somewhere around the axis? We might, in a seven-story building get three units, but we are not to sure.

Mr. Clarke remarked that the absence of lighting the building, juding by the sight lines, is more desireable than to have a long side of the building facing the Mall. He considered it as an element in the landscape, and thought it desireable to break up the mass of the building.

The problem of placing the building on or off the axis was also discussed and was left for study by the architects. The view from Constitution Avenue was also mentioned, but Mr. Shepley did not consider that important.

Mr. Justement: If you eliminate Constitution Avenue, then the only other place you can see it from is somewhere on the axis, and if you look at it on the axis, there are only two places that we felt would be important. One would be 17th Street and the other would be facing the Monument.

Mr. Shepley: Then you get down to the question of seeing it from the Capitol.

Mr. Justement: That is perhaps the most critical point and there you have the advantage of great distance. I think if you stayed away from a similar color, so you would have a nice contrast with the Memorial, there would be no objection.

Mr. Shepley: If you had it right straight behind the Memorial it would be more adviseable than if you had it too one-sided.

Mr. Justement: Yes. I would put it on the axis for that reason.

Chairman Clarke: If you could accomplish the pulling in of those ends some. What bothered me more than anything else was the night view of this building with windows lighted, and seeing it over the top of the Lincoln Memorial, which, in view of the foreshortening, would make you think it grew out of the top.

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Mr. Aldrich: Wouldn't there be some system of interior lighting that would dim that?

Mr. Justement: In that respect, remember the great mass of spectators who will view this building from the Capitol will not go there at night, They will be going there in the daytime. There are practically none going there in the evening, so there is really very little question of lighting from the Capitol.

As far as lighting is concerned, you get down these station points (indicating), the base of the Monument and 17th Street.

Mr. Reinhard: Except the extreme tails---

Mr. Justement: That is something we have not worked out yet. Maybe they could be shortened... There is one thing none of us has mentioned here which I thought was very desireable. As I understand it, there are a large number of ambultory patients in this hospital, and the view overlooking the river, from the patients' point of view, I think, is very delightful. It would be much nicer to be locking over the river than looking over the Cemetery, which is the other view.

Chairman Clarke: To forget the otientation for a minute, what would happen if you kept this thing down to a minimun that the Veterans' Bureau would permit, say seven stories?

Mr. Justement. It would be the same thing, the same length, except there would be six floors of wards.

Chairman Clarke: We would prefer the lower building to the higher building in any event. There is no question on that, particularly if you are going to orient it east and west. Right?

Mr. Shepley: Yes. In other words, reduce the height and get the third unit.

Mr. Kiff: We want to do that, too. We have discussed this plan, for instance. (It showed three units) View from the Arlington Memorial Bridge was discussed. A brief recess followed.

Colonel Dryden. We are anxious to proceed on the general principles and not lose time.

Chairman Clark. I think we can come to a meeting of minds on this without a great deal of difficulty.

Colonel Dryden: We want to develop it to fit into your plans and to fit the needs of the hospital.

Chairman Clarke: Gentleman, I am wondering if we can recite a few principles that can guide the studies of the architects in the next weeks or months so that the representatives of the Veterans' Bureau and the Corps of Engineers may leave here with a feeling that there is some direction that this matter can take which will result in a meeting of the minds.

I think this discussion has been very helpful indeed, and I am sure we can get together on it, recognizing the factors on which the Veterans' Bureau must insist with respect to the interior operation and arrangement of the unit, and with some small compromise on their part give us an elementoof architecture that will not be too big and will be within the scale of which we are thinking. Is it fair to say that the architects will be willing to make a study with regard to as great an orientation to the north and south as may be thought possible in the circumstances? I say that just in general terms.

Mr. Kiff: In developing all the parts, we will have to try that too. It should be tried.

Chairman Clarke: Number2, that we, as the Commission of Fine Arts, express a preference for as low a building may be compatible with the interior services that have to be taken care of. We realize there is a minimum beyond which you cannot go, but we prefer it as low as possible.

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is another. It ought to be as quiet as possible. We would prefer that you did not build it out of white marble. We hope that angle will not be completely ignored. And I hope that there will be some money left over to plant some trees in front of this building, after you get through, which will do a great deal to tie it into the site and help a lot.

Colonel White: May we ask for an expression of opinion as to whether it should be on the axis or not?

Chairman Clarke: Let's say this: The building should be placed on the site in the best relationship to the city without regard to the axis; Is that right?

They are interested in keeping it a certain distance from the Arlington Cemetery, and also back from Lee Boulevard, beyond which they have no control over buildings operations,. But why not design it to best fit the site without regard for the axis?

Mr. Shepley: If it is slightly off the axis and is not concealed from the Lincoln Memorial, it might be better to put it right on the axis. The advantage of putting it off the axis would be nullified if you do not conceal it.

Chairman Clarke: If the ground is so graded and the location is such that you cannot get it far enough off the axis to make it count, in that case it might be better to put it on the axis. I am confident Colonel White and Colonel Wolfe will have no difficulty in arriving at a solution that will meet with our general approval.

I think the architects have done a splendid job to bring in as much as they have in such a short time. We are very happy that they have, in the short time at their disposal, given careful thought to the sight lines in relation to the Central Composition of the Mall, because that is uppermost in our minds. I think they fully realize the importance of a sympathetic approach to this problem.

Thereupon Colonel Wolfe asked about time of future meetings of the Commission of Fine Arts, and Chairman Clarke replied that a meeting would be held on a weeks' or ten days' notice. The project will not be delayed by the Commission.

Chairman Clarke; then asked General Grant if he had anything to add?

General Grant: As far as our Commission is concerned, this is in your hands and the hands of the Chief of Engineers and the Veterans' Administration, There are two things I think might be put into the picture. One is that from the standpoint of a patient in this climate, it is most disagreeable to have a room with an eastern exposure because of the heat in the summer... It is most uncomfortable for a person who is recovering from an operation to have something of that sort.

The other thing is, while we have been talking about the main axis, I think it should not be forgotten that we have two things on that skyline that are points of special interest, the Arlington Mansion and the Amphitheater at Arlington Cemetery, so we do not want to put up a large white monumental affair that will dominate them.

Chairman Clarke. That is why I mentioned that it should be a neutural color, rather than a dominant note in the landscape. So I take it that the architecture, speaking extremely broadly, will not be monumental--monumental in terms of Washington. (the group agreed) Thereupon Chairman Clarke said,--

We appreciate all of you coming here. After all, your interests in the National Capital are just the same as ours.. I think we have to avoid criticism on the part of people who are not unconscious that this piece of property, located as it is, is very important, and if we support you, I think you will avoid criticism.

Colonel Wolfe: We are glad to have had this opportunity to come before you and we are going to try as hard as we can to meet your wishes.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

H.P.Caemmerer, Secretary.

e another. It ought to be as quiet as possible. We would prefer that
ion did not build it out of white marble. We hope that angle will
ot be completely ignored. And I hope that there will be some money left
ver to plant some trees in front of this building, after you get through,
ion will do a great deal to tie it into the site and help a lot.

Colonel White: May we ask for an expression of opinion as to whether
t should be on the axis or not?

Chairman Clarke: Let's say this: The building should be placed on the
site in the best relationship to the city without regard to the axis; is
hat right?

They are interested in keeping it a certain distance from the Arlington
emetery, and also back from Lee Boulevard, beyond which they have no control
over buildings operations.. But why not deal with it to best fit the site without
egard for the axis?

Mr. Bingley: If its is slightly off the axis and is not conspicuous from
the Lincoln Memorial, it might be better to put it right on the axis. The
advantage of putting it off the axis would be nullified if you do not conceal it.

Chairman Clarke: If the ground is so graded and the location is such that
you cannot get it far enough off the axis to make it count, in that case it
might be better to put it on the axis. I am confident Colonel White and
Colonel Wolfe will have no difficulty in arriving at a solution that will meet
with our general approval.

I think the architects have done a splendid job to bring in as much as they
have in such a short time. We are very happy that they have, in the short time
at their disposal, given careful thought to the right lines in relation to the
central Composition of the Mall, because that is uppermost in our minds. I
think they fully realize the importance of a sympathetic approach to this problem

Thereupon Colonel Wolfe asked about time of future meetings of the
Commission of Fine Arts, and Chairman Clarke replied that a meeting would be
held on a weeks' or ten days' notice. The project will not be delayed by
the Commission.

Chairman Clarke; then asked General Grant if he had anything to add?

General Grant: So far as our Commission is concerned, this is in your hands
and the hands of the Chief of Engineers and the Veterans' Administration. There
are two things I think might be put into the picture. One is that from the
standpoint of a patient in this climate, it is most disagreeable to have a room
with an eastern exposure because of the heat in the summer... It is most uncomfort-
able for a person who is recovering from an operation to have something of that sort

The other thing is, while we have been talking about the main axis, I
think it should not be forgotten that we have two things on that skyline that
are points of special interest, the Arlington Mansion and the Amphitheater
at Arlington Cemetery, so we do not want to put up a large white monumental
structure that will dominate them.

Chairman Clarke. That is why I mentioned that it should be a neutral
color, rather than a dominant note in the landscape. So I take it that the
architecture, speaking generally broadly, will not be monumental--monumental
in terms of the tradition. (The group agreed) Thereupon Chairman Clarke said,--

We appreciate all of you coming here. After all, your interests in the
National Capital are just the same as ours.. I think we have to avoid
criticism on the part of people who are not conscious that this piece of
property, located as it is, is very important, and if we support you, I think
you will avoid criticism.

Colonel Wolfe: We are glad to have had this opportunity to come before
you and we are going to try as hard as we can to meet your wishes.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

C. H. Carpenter, Secretary.

October 17, 1946

Dear Mr. Crim,

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 4, 1946, were pleased to consider with you and Mr. Winslow the scheme suggested of taking out the old fountain at the East Entrance to the White House, so as to make it possible to have the White House fence extend in a straight line along East Executive Avenue.

The Commission approved the scheme and the drawing presented by Mr. Winslow with the understanding that the two piers would be eliminated and that iron fence of appropriate design be substituted.

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman

Hon. H.G. Crim,
Chief Usher,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit I.

October 17, 1940

Dear Mr. Cole,

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 17, 1940, were pleased to consider with you and Mr. Simpson the scheme suggested of taking out the old fence in at the front entrance to the White House, so as to make it possible to have the White House fence extend in a straight line along East Executive Avenue.

The Commission approved the scheme and the drawing presented by Mr. Simpson with the understanding that the two piers would be eliminated and that iron fence of appropriate design be substituted.

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman

Col. F.C. Cole,
Chief Usher,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit 1.

Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts.

The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, The Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katherine M. Rhoades, or Mrs. Eugene E. Meyer, as provided in paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

1 Bronze sword fitting, Chinese.

1 Pottery vase, Chinese, Kang Hsi period.

1 Bronze vessel of type ting. Chinese, Chou dynasty.

1 Enamelled Glass Beaker. Syrian.

1 Painting. Indian, 16th century. Mogul. "The Audience of a Maharajah", from the Hamza-nama.

1 Painting. Persian, late 14th century. (From Kazwani's Cosmography)

1 Painting. Persian, 16th century. A Tartar horseman.

1 Manuscript page. Armenian, 9th-10th century. Tables of concordance on both sides.

1 Manuscript page. Armenian, 9th-10th century. Tables of Concordance on one side; Four Evangelists on reverse.

1 Manuscript page. Armenian, 9th-10th century. Tables of Concordance on both sides.

1 Painting. Indian, 17th century. Mughal portrait.

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. A.G.Wenley, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

Exhibit M

Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman

October 4, 1946

For the Commission of Fine Arts.

Incumbency Commission of Time Lords.

The Lagrein of the Gallifreyian Institution, the Archimedes of Time Lords, and Lord Justice B. Rassmus, or Lord Lugrin E. Rassmus, as provided in paragraph 3 of the Decision by Lord Jill at his Lordship's first, duly received the following objection

1 Living Wood Circling, Chicago

1 Solitary Vase, Chinese, Song Dx dynasty

1 Bronze Vessel (Type III), Chinese, Late Shang dynasty,

1 Enameled Glass Beaker, Egyptian

1 Painting, Indian, Jain painting, Depict "The Dreams of a Sabarijan", Ilyas Ca Qaraqosh

1 Painting, Persian, Late 16th century, "Two Lovers" Qaraqosh)

1 Painting, Persian, Late 16th century,A Water Carrier.

1 Sumerian Jar, Ceramic, Ur-Nina period, Early Dynastic Period or Mesopotamia or Near East

1 Sculpture, Ceramic, Protoclay Period, Period or Location or Near East Iran/Afghanistan or Near East

1 Mesopotamia Plate, Ceramic, Ur-Nina period, Early Dynastic Period or Near East

1 Painting, Persian, 17th century, Depict warriors,

duly have been considered for purposes for the Time Lords Meeting of 4th by the Archimedes, Lugrin, and that Lords Lugrin the decision

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Justice B. Rassmus

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COPY

Harbeson, Hough, Livingston & Larson
Architects Building, Philadelphia

October 3, 1946

RE: SENATE AND HOUSE CHAMBERS

Mr. Francis P. Sullivan
Studio Building
808 17th Street
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Sullivan

We should like to put down a summary of the conference we had here today with you and Mr. Kramer of Mr. Lynn's office regarding the developments of the studies for the alterations to the Senate and House Chambers. With the short time available before contract drawings are completed, and estimates taken, it is essential that the drawings required for the study of the architectural elements, and necessary that the contract documents may assure a result satisfactory to all of us, be pushed with vigor at this time.

A. THE SENATE We have made a number of studies of the treatment of the walls and ceiling.

For the ceilings we feel it essential that the big curve form be less pointed - should be more rounded - at the ends than a true ellipse. As we said in our letter of August 28th, we are strongly of the opinion that the form with the larger radius at the ends looks much better. On drawing SK 17 we have suggested such a curve, a general profile, and some recommendations as to the treatments of the ornamented bands. There is still the question of introducing light sources to give enough illumination to the horizontal part of the ceiling, which should have further study, and trial, if possible, of several possible schemes in the full size model at the Bureau of Standards. The lights contemplated near the wall around the perimeter will give a series of bright spots and flashes down the walls, which will not look well. For the lighting of the gallery we propose down lights at the center of the rossettes as we discussed.

Walls lower part Our studies have been to fix the proportion between the door motives and the panel motives, and their treatments.

We feel it is absolutely necessary to retain, as the crowning member of the central feature behind the presiding officer, some adquate sculptural feature extending above the horizontal level of the parapet around the rest of the room. The studies put before the Fine Arts Commission and the Senate Committee showed a clock at this place; a clock is not necessary, but an accent is required to

give a desired emphasis and dignity to the central feature, a proper setting for the presiding officer.

We suggest that the columns and the pilasters should be of one material a rich colored marble, the small base course of a dark tone, and all other marble - all of the entablature, the background of the central feature and the end door feature, and the surfaces at the corners should be all of one kind of marble, of lighter color.

For those materials we suggest tentatively, the following, believing that these are available, in sufficent quantity, and would look well: for the columns and the pilasters, Light Domestic Fleuri (Tennessee Marble Inc.): for the base and the coping of the parapet, French Grey (Vermont Marble Company) or the similar marbles known as Radio Black or York Fossil; for the entablatures and corners (the larger areas), Tavernelle Rose. The bases and caps of the columns and pilasters would be white- an Alabama Cream.

We suggest treating all the pilasters with antis-caps, reserving the ionic form for the columns, These columns, we feel should be complete, not three-quarter columns. We believe the stars, or some other suitable motive of comparable size, should be retained on the architrave.

For the walls of the spectator's gallery we suggest using the base of French Grey, all other marble to be Tavernelle except the pedestals of the busts in the niches, which could again be the Domestic Fleuri.

The doors of the lower floor should have grilles over the glass panels, grilles of some all over design rather than one with an axis and symmetrical pattern. On the upper floor the doors would look best as simple panneled doors.

B. The House Here we again note that it is, in our opinion, essential to retain the crowning sculptural motive of the central feature back of the speaker, breaking above the line of the parapet coping. In this case the motive at times serves as background to the President and dignity is a requisite. This central feature, as a result of the existing dimensions is low in propotion, a quality which will be accentuated by the large group of desks in three tiers cutting across its base; it is therefore necessary to keep this scuptural feature. We suggest an additional break at each side of the central motive, partly to arrange proportion in the small panels , partly to provide a proper transition between the cornices of different heights.

For the materials we suggest tentatively: for the columns and the pilasters behind them some heavy veined marble as rich as Verde antique; for the base on both floors and for the coping of the parapet, French Grey, or a similar marble; for the entablature and the background of the central feature, and the dado and doors trims of spectators gallery above, Tavernelle Clair. The bases and caps of the columns could be a white Alabama Cream.

We recommend the pilasters around the room be of the Tavernelle marble, unfluted, with caps and bases of white marble. These pilasters should be narrower than you show them, not wider than the columns.

We propose that the corners of the lower story should be curved, elliptical in plan: this will make possible a good relation in size between the narrow panels and the wide ones, and the narrow panels will all be (approximately) of the same size.

In the upper story we suggest a simplification of the treatment at the doors, as we have shown on the studies we discussed with you and of which we will have prints made for you.

It would be well to make a study of the rostrum desks, to see if, with proper regard for sight-lines, it will be possible to lower the upper platforms, and thus reduce the greak bulk of this feature which cuts so much of the central motive from view.

We feel it would help immeasurably in the proper development of the work if you would prepare careful studies, for each chamber, of a little more than half of the long and of the short elevation, rendered with some indication of the differences of color and materials, and with all shadows accurately cast to give an indication of reveals and projections. In these studies it would be well to include the rostrum and desks, and at the sides indicate by dotted lines the platforms and desks and chairs of the row next to the wall, to give an indication of how much of the wall will be hidden from view by this furniture,

We have suggested the richer color for the Senate because it is the smaller Chamber, and a richer material can be used better than where it might seem to be too much. This is the higher chamber. When these harder finish materials are decided upon we suggest the making of a color chart to include the paint colors and pieces of the textile and carpet materials.

The lighting problem still remains as the biggest question. We hope soo to see your scale model of some of these conditions.

Reverting to the feature crowning the top of the central motives, there is opportunity here to make or break the whole composition and further study exploring various possibilities is essentail at this time.

The revised drawing showing the layout of the clerks, etc, before the rostrum in the House did not arrive this morning with the other drawings you sent- furinture, press gallery, railing, etc.

Cordially yours,

HARBESON, HOUGH, LIVINGSTON & LARSON, ARCHITECTS

John Harbeson

JFH/p
cc: Mr. David Lynn(2)
Mr. H.P. Caemmerer